

Serial No. 10/540,264

Attorney Docket No. 01-518-TN

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following new heading and paragraph before the heading "Technical Field" on line 3 of page 1 of the specification:

**Cross References to Related Applications**

This application is a US national phase application of international application PCT/JP2003/016834, which was filed on 25 December 2003.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on line 5 of page 12 as follows:

First, the basic construction of a vehicle safety device pertaining to the first through fourth aspects of the invention set forth above will be described. A vehicle safety device pertaining to the first through fourth aspects of the invention has a distance information detecting element for detecting the distance to a crash object and a relative speed relative to that crash object, a passenger protection element for lightening crash damage by completing a transition to a passenger protecting state after a predetermined actuation rise time elapses from an actuation start time, and a time. The vehicle safety device further includes a calculation and control element for ordering the start of actuation when an available time before crash that a crash, which is the time to an estimated crash time calculated on the basis of the detected distance and relative speed, falls to a predetermined threshold time. The predetermined threshold time is set to be longer than the actuation rise time.